



The North Mercantile Store in Charleston, one of the community's prosperous business firms for many years. It was closed down when the Deer Creek project inundated the area.

Those who settled Charleston were members of the Church, seeking freedom and an opportunity to worship according to the dictates of their consciences. Through the years, the L.D.S. Church has been the only religious group in Charleston, and has fostered peace and progress in the community.

David Walker, one of the early Charleston settlers, was the first presiding elder in the community, but served only a short time until he moved back to Salt Lake City. George Noakes was the next presiding elder, and served from about 1865 to 1866 when the settlement was disbanded during the Black Hawk War. Meetings were held in private homes up until that time.

When the people began resettling Charleston in 1867, Elder Noakes was again appointed presiding elder and served about a year. Elder John Watkins of Midway was then called to be presiding elder, and he traveled back and forth from Midway to conduct Church meetings. Since the first bridge over the Provo River between Charleston and Midway was not constructed until 1892, Elder Watkins often had to travel long distances until he could find a place to cross the river.

Elder Watkins directed the building of the first permanent chapel in Charleston in 1873, doing much of the building work himself. Counselors to Elder Watkins were George Powell and Enoch Richins. Later, Elder Powell moved away and Nymphus C. Murdock was called as first counselor. William Wright was first clerk in the Church and served for many years.

1865-1866

Ferting
in

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Resettling of
Charleston
1867

